2002-03 except for a revision in the distributors' commission effective 01.11.2002.

(d) Oil Marketing Companies pay to the refineries the prices of Domestic LPG on import parity basis. The other elements which are added to this price to get the retail selling price of the product include *inter alia* bottling charges, freight costs, duties and taxes, etc:

Crude Oil Prices in International Market

2950. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the prices of crude oil in the international market during each of the last six months;

(b) the impact on domestic prices of petroleum products and oil pool deficit due to increase in the international prices of crude oil;

(c) whether Government propose to follow policy of market price instead of subsidised price in regard to petroleum products; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) The monthly average FOB price of Brent (dated) crude oil in the international market during the last six months were as follows:

	(US $/bbl)
Feb'03	— 32.67
March'03	— 30.54
April'03	— 24.85
May'03	— 25.72
June'03	— 27.51
July'03	— 28.35

(b) to (d) With the dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism in the Petroleum sector effective 1.4.02, the pricing of all petroleum products, except for PDS Kerosense and domestic LPG which continue to be

subsidized products, have became market determined. Increase in the international prices of crude oil increases the oil import bill of the country.

Exploration of Oil in Indo-Gangetic Plains

2951. SHRI LALU PRASAD:
SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA.

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have placed 24 exploration blocks on general bidding for production sharing contract under New Exploration Licensing Policy-IV (NELP-IV);

(b) whether out of these only one block known as Indo-Gangetic block VI (numbered GV-ONN-2002/1) is located in Bihar;

(c) whether Government propose to intensify exploration in the Indo-Gangetic plains in future; and

(d) if so, by what measures and by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. To intensify efforts for exploration of oil and gas in the country, the Government has invited bids for twenty four exploration blocks, i.e., eleven in onland, one in shallow water offshore and twelve in deep water area under the Fourth round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-IV). Out of eleven onland blocks, one block, i.e. GV-ONN-2002/1, is located in Bihar.

(c) and (d) The exploration of oil and gas through identification and offer of blocks from oil prospective areas, including Indo-Gangetic basic, under the New Exploration Licensing Policy is a continuous and ongoing process.

Production of CBM in Gujarat

2952. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:
SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Gujarat has sent any proposal